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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/872,938	05/31/2001	Michael R. Lynch	4667.P005	3283

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EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/872,938

Applicant(s)

LYNCH ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4&6/ 21Jul&04Sep03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 13-17, 19-30, 35-36, are 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Wheeler et al.** ("Wheeler") (U.S. Patent 6,618,727 B1).

Regarding claims 1, 13, 21, 24, and 27, **Wheeler** teaches method, apparatus, and article or manufacture, comprising:

- a). generating a list of one or more related documents ranked (col. 2, lines 11-13) based upon relevance to a first representation of content associated with a first field of a reference extensible markup language document, the first representation including a set of terms and one or more weighted values associated with each term in the set of terms (col. 2, lines 36-47; col. 7, lines 56-65; col. 20, lines 36-47 and Fig. 25);

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b). generating a linked to each of the one or more related documents (col. 2, lines 21-26).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein the first field in the reference extensible markup language document is specified at the time a query is generated (col. 2, lines 42-44).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein the reference extensible markup language document is selected from a group of documents in a database (i.e. source database) (col. 2, lines 39-42).

Regarding claim 5, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein submitting the reference extensible markup language document to an engine for analysis (col. 9, lines 52-65).

Regarding claim 7, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein the second field of the related document contains semantically similar content to the content associated with the first field of the reference extensible markup language document (col. 11, lines 10-18).

Regarding claims 8, 20, 28, and 41, **Wheeler** further teaches executing a query on the reference extensible markup language document to generate the list and the link without a user having to request the query (col. 19, lines 60-64 and Fig. 24).

Regarding claim 9, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein the list further includes references to relevant fields within each related document (Fig. 21G).

Regarding claim 15, **Wheeler** further teaches a database containing a plurality of representations, each representation being associated with content in a particular field in an extensible markup language document (Fig. 24 and col. 19, lines 60-65).

Regarding claim 16, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein the engine adjusts the one or more weighted values for each particular term in the set of terms by a comparison to a historical weighted value associated with each particular term in the set of terms (col. 12, line 60- col. 13, line 8).

Regarding claim 17, **Wheeler** further teaches a converter to convert a non-extensible markup language document into an extensible markup language format (col. 9, lines 56-65).

Regarding claim 19, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein the engine has a module to compare the first representation to a plurality of representations in a database in order to identify documents that are most similar to the first representation (Figs. 24 and 25; col. 19, lines 60-65; col. 20, lines 36-47).

Regarding claims 22 and 25, **Wheeler** further teaches wherein the reference extensible markup language document has a first extensible markup language schema, and a first related extensible markup language document has a second extensible markup language schema (col. 9, lines 56-65).

Regarding claims 23 and 26, **Wheeler** further teaches the steps of:

- a). identifying a first representation of content associated with the reference extensible markup language document, the first representation including a first set of terms and one or more weighted values associated with each term in the first set of terms (i.e., suspect's height weight 50%) (col. 11, lines 55-63);
- b). identifying a second representation of content associated with a second field in a first related extensible markup language document, the second representation including a second set of terms and a second weighted value associated with each term in the second set of terms (i.e., suspect's weight and hair color weight 25%)(col. 11, lines 55-63).

Regarding claims 29, 30, 35, 36, 39, and 40, **Wheeler** further teaches a method, comprising:

- a). executing a query on content from a active desktop window without a user having to request the query (col. 19, lines 60-64 and Fig. 24).
- b). generating a ranked list of documents related to the content based on the content in the active desktop window (col. 2, lines 11-13);

- c). generating links to the documents (col. 2, lines 21-26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Wheeler et al.** ("Wheeler") (U.S. Patent 6,618,727 B1) as applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 13-17, 19-30, 35-36 are 39-41 above and in view of **Blumenthal** (U.S. Patent 6,026,409).

Regarding claim 6, **Wheeler** does not explicitly teach wherein the link is a hypertext link.

Blumenthal, however, teaches wherein the link is a hypertext link.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Blumenthal's** teaching would have allowed **Wheeler's** to easily and conveniently access to desired documents.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Wheeler et al.** ("Wheeler") (U.S. Patent 6,618,727 B1) as applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 13-17, 19-30, 35-36, are 39-41 above and in view of **Schuetze** (U.S. Patent 5,675,819).

Regarding claim 10, **Wheeler** does not explicitly teach wherein the set of terms includes singular terms and higher order terms.

Schuetze, however, teaches wherein the set of terms includes singular terms and higher order terms (col. 13, lines 5-21).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Schuetze's** teaching would have allowed **Wheeler's** to assign the ranking for relevant terms more effectively.

5. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Wheeler et al.** ("Wheeler") (U.S. Patent 6,618,727 B1) as applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 13-17, 19-30, 35-36, are 39-41 above and in view of **Kirsch et al.** ("**Kirsch**") (U.S. Patent 5,983,216).

Regarding claim 11, **Wheeler** does not explicitly wherein the set of terms includes singular terms and noun phrases.

Kirsch, however, teaches wherein the set of terms includes singular terms and noun phrases (claim 2, a).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Kirsch's** teaching would have allowed **Wheeler's** to apply the selected single terms and noun phrases to the meta-index descriptive of the document collections to determine the cumulative rankings for the documents.

Regarding claim 12, **Wheeler** does not explicitly wherein the set of terms includes higher order terms and proper names.

Kirsch, however, teaches wherein the set of terms includes higher order terms and proper names (claim 2, limitation d).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Kirsch's** teaching would have allowed **Wheeler's** to apply the selected single terms and noun phrases to the meta-index descriptive of the document collections to determine the cumulative rankings for the documents.

6. Claims 18, 33, 34, 38, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Wheeler et al.** ("Wheeler") (U.S. Patent 6,618,727 B1) as applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 13-17, 19-30, are 39-41 above and in view of **Agrawal et al.** ("**Agrawal**") (U.S. Patent 5,675,819).

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Regarding claims 18, 33, 38, and 43, **Wheeler** does not explicitly wherein the non-extensible markup language document is content associated with an e-mail, content associated with a web page, or content associated with a software application.

Agrawal, however, teaches wherein the non-extensible markup language document is content associated with an e-mail, content associated with a web page, or content associated with a software application (col. 1, lines 13-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Agrawal's** teaching involves organizing repositories of documents such as emails and web pages in folders, and the folders can be arranged in a tree-like hierarchy structure would have allowed **Wheeler's** to process variety types of documents in order to provide a more flexible system for user to manage and organize documents in an easy and effective manner.

Regarding claim 34, **Wheeler** does not clearly teach wherein the active desktop window is running an e-mail application.

Agrawal, however, teaches wherein the active desktop window is running an e-mail application (col. 4, lines 14-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Agrawal's** teaching would have allowed **Wheeler's** to have a means to collect and process variety types of unstructured or semi-structured documents.

7. Claims 31, 32, 37, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Wheeler et al.** ("Wheeler") (U.S. Patent 6,618,727 B1) as applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 13-17, 19-30, are 39-41 above and in view of **Jeffrey** (US 20030084040A1).

Regarding claims 31, 32, 37, and 42, **Wheeler** does not clearly teach wherein the probabilistic algorithm uses a Bayesian model.

Jeffrey, however, teaches wherein the probabilistic algorithm uses a Bayesian model (paragraph 19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Jeffrey's** teaching involves document retrieval for wide ranges of subject matter, such as exhibited by the Internet, general libraries, and other broad-coverage information collections and comparing documents includes segmenting a judgment matrix into a plurality of information sub-matrices where each sub-matrix has a plurality of classifications and a plurality of terms relevant to each classification would have allowed **Wheeler's** to effectively calculate the probability of the relevant terms for the target documents in order to produce more accurate results.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Teng et al. (U.S. Patent 6,631,367 B2)

Huang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,601,075 B1)

Gabriel et al. (U.S. Patent 6,584,468 B1)

Cohen (U.S. Patent 6,516,308 B1)

Li (U.S. Patent 6,480,843 B2)

Redfern (U.S. Patent 6,078,914 A)

Stensmo (U.S. 20030028512 A1)

Crouch et al. (Experiments in Automatic Statistical Thesaurus Construction)

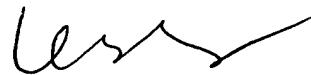
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (703) 305-3018. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

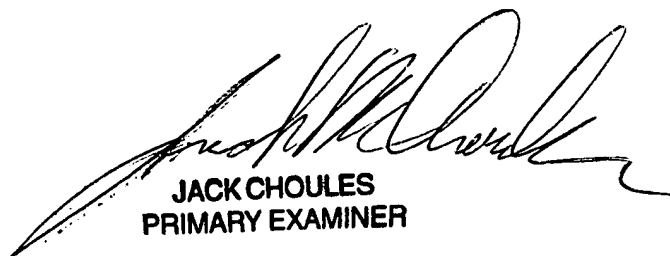
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Leslie Wong
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2177

Lw
February 9, 2004



JACK CHOULES
PRIMARY EXAMINER